

2006 / Fiscal Year 2007 Priorities

Missouri's Veterans' Homes and Cemeteries

Missouri's veterans' homes provide essential services to many of the state's veterans.

Governor Blunt's Fiscal Year 2007 budget includes:

- \$8.6 million to build a new veterans' cemetery in Ft. Leonard Wood.
- \$2 million for overtime costs to ensure quality care to the veterans residing in Missouri's seven veterans' homes.
- \$831,854 to provide a pay adjustment for critical nursing staff working in veterans' homes.
- \$1.5 million for increased pharmaceutical and other costs at veterans' homes.

More Veterans Service Officers

The Governor recommends additional funding in Fiscal Year 2007 to strengthen the system of Veterans Service Officers, including:

- \$115,391 for additional Veterans Service Officers to aid veterans in accessing resources for healthcare, pensions, job and education opportunities, and other benefits.
- \$82,820 to ensure ongoing funding to staff the Veterans' Ombudsman Program.

Support for the Missouri National Guard

To support the ongoing maintenance and security of Missouri's National Guard installations, Governor Blunt's Fiscal Year 2007 budget includes:

- \$1.9 million to maintain security at Air National Guard bases in St. Joseph and St. Louis.
- \$304,080 to support National Guard armories in St. Joseph and Fort Leonard Wood.
- \$99,992 to provide start-up costs for the new armories located in Dexter and Pierce City, and an addition at Chillicothe.

Missouri Military Family Relief Fund

Governor Blunt is committed to supporting the brave men and women who serve in the National Guard and Reserves. The Missouri Military Family Relief Fund, part of legislation passed in 2005, authorizes contributions to provide assistance to the families of National Guard members or reservists who are on active duty.

- Governor Blunt recommends \$200,000 for this important program in his Fiscal Year 2007 budget.

Caring for Those Who Have Served Us All

“I have the greatest respect for those who have served and are serving in every branch of our military. We are the greatest country on Earth thanks to these brave men and women.”

- Matt Blunt

2005 Successes

Caring for Missouri’s Veterans

In 2005, Governor Blunt recommended and signed a budget that included \$13.7 million in general revenue to sustain the operations of Missouri’s veterans’ homes. The Governor is committed to caring and providing for Missouri’s veterans. Supporting Missouri’s veterans’ homes was the right thing to do in the face of difficult budget times for all of state government.



Advisory Council for Veterans' Affairs

In November 2005, Governor Blunt kept a campaign promise by establishing the Governor's Advisory Council for Veterans' Affairs.

The council will advise the Governor on ways to assist Missouri's veterans by identifying the needs of the aging veteran population, developing strategies for improving the delivery of services, increasing services to and awareness about the number of women veterans in the state, and promoting Missouri as a "military friendly state."

Missouri Military Family Relief Fund

To help the families of those who are currently serving, the Missouri General Assembly passed and Lt. Governor Peter Kinder signed in the Governor's out-of-state absence, legislation to establish the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund authorizing a tax contribution check-off. The fund will be administered by the Adjutant General and will provide grants to families of servicemen and women who are members of Missouri's National Guard or Missouri residents who are members of the Reserve who have been called to active duty.

